



## **Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 1**

**Meeting Date:** November 28, 2006

**Meeting Location:** Lake County Juvenile Justice Center  
3000 West 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Crown Point Indiana 46307

**Council Members Present:** Richard Ban, Jane Bisbee, Glenn Commons, Melanie Cox, Alfred Fisher, Deborah Harris, Cynthia Kambesis, Henry Mosley, Charlotte Peller, Elizabeth Teagarden, Dianne Weiss-Bradley, Lavetta Wade, Lynda Wheeler

**Council Members Absent:** Mary Beth Bonaventura, Jeffrey Miller

<h3><b>Meeting Minutes</b></h3>
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Meeting called to order at 3:35 pm

Ms. Bisbee introduced Lavetta Wade, new Division Manager for the Department of Child Services and Regional Services Council member.

The September minutes were approved by the council members.

Note: The October meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

There will be no meeting in December.

Next meeting will be January 30, 2007. In January the Council will discuss a strategic plan for services for Lake County children– our strengths and needs. This includes the services that the Community Partners for Child Safety will provide. Community partners includes only those services not used for CHINS or JDs.

Discussion included the services provided to Lake County children from Circle Around Families . Sandy Coffman, President of Geminus began by discussing the history of Circle Around Families and the original 5 year grant. Data was provided regarding the average monthly cost per child, administrative costs, average length of stay, and origin of referrals. The original grant provided training to other Lake County providers and Family Case Managers.

Circle Around Families agrees that they could work better and that there is room for improvement but they have worked well with families and children especially with children who are being readied to leave residential facilities.

After CAF's presentation, a discussion was held by the council regarding the need for system of care for Lake County children. Statements included:

- there are high end children who need this level of care in homes that need someone on a daily basis but there must be accountability.
- there is a need to monitor and tailor the services to the needs of the children

Mr. Richard Ban then made a motion to have a system of care in Lake County and Magistrate Commons seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned.

### **Systems of Care Presentation by Circle Around Families**

Mimi Gardner-Suggs of Circle Around Families began the presentation. Circle around Families is not a program but a project, a partnership of agencies to strengthen care. It is a wrap around plan for services, community based. 90 agencies are involved with services such as mentoring, parent education, parent advocates. A youth group was developed and attended a National Youth Conference, placing 2<sup>nd</sup> nationally. They have held 54 trainings for 4800 people.

Doug Ward of Circle Around Families presented the CAF final report of the characteristics of the youth who were served in the initiative and the service outcomes. A total of 557 youth were involved since its implementation in November, 2000. Of the 557 youth enrolled, 398 have been terminated from the initiative, with an average length of stay of 8.2 months. Over 60% successfully completed their participation.

Tim Thomas of Edgewater spoke as a partner with Circle Around Families

Stating the program was working. Bob Krumwied of Tri-City Mental Health Spoke next how CAF has brought everyone to the table-schools, family, the Department of Child Services and CAF have worked hard to do this and has the tools to and provide support for the care of children.

Lee Strawhun of Southlake Center from Mental Health spoke about the CAF has involved the schools which in Lake County is difficult due to the numerous school systems.

Last to speak Nancy Cloonan from Family Action Network, another partner of Circle Around Families. By involving Family Action Network, which is a parent ran organization, has parent aids for homemaker services, and Parent advocates.

Statements from Regional Service Council:

Henry Mosley, Department of Child Services Division Manager states Circle Around Families has been helpful.

Magistrate Pellar states she is frustrated the most with Truants and is looking for something to help the children go to school.

Rita Daniels, FCM for Department of Child Services works with children in acute care and the Education factor that Circle Around Families has brought to the table has helped her. She did not know what to do about the education part and found out about the services right here in Community that are beneficial.

Mr. Fisher, DCS Division Manager says having the representative Cozette Roperin the building is an invaluable aid.

Diane Weiss Bradley says there have been some inconsistencies with Circle Around Families but the representatives have a willingness to overcome.

No further questions or comments, our next step is whether to pursue a contract. Further discussion will be held after Circle Around Families has provided the following information and the Regional Services Council can study.

1. Recidivism
2. Average cost per child/client
3. Breakdown of case rate, case rate v. service rate fee
4. Why is this program cost effective CAF vs. non CAF
5. Quality Assurance Committee – need input so problems can be addressed.

No further business, a motion for the meeting to be adjourned was  
Made by Magistrate Pellar and seconded by Magistrate Miller.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.